



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Deputy District Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
215 NORTH 17TH STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-4978

JUN 22 1999

Dear Interested Party,

The preliminary screening of alternatives for the Cherry Creek Dam Safety Study has been completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. The only alternatives being given further consideration are the following:

- a. No Federal action.
- b. A stand-alone dam raise on Cherry Creek Dam of approximately 15 feet in height.
- c. A stand-alone spillway on the Cherry Creek Dam embankment with possible spillway crest elevations varying from 5600 feet to 5623 feet in elevation.
- d. A spillway in combination with a dam raise on the Cherry Creek Dam. The dam raise will be of a height ranging from 3 feet to 12 feet. The best spillway crest elevation, spillway width, gates, etc., will be determined during the detailed analysis of the remaining alternatives.

Based on telephone conversations with the public and some of the news articles I have seen, there appears to be a misunderstanding of some key points about the Cherry Creek Dam Safety Study. Based on the work we have completed, the Corps of Engineers can make the following statements regarding the remaining alternatives under consideration.

- a. All the spillways will be located in the area of the central portion of the Cherry Creek Dam.
- b. No alternative will require any houses to be acquired either in fee or easement. The only acquisition foreseen as necessary for any alternative is at the dam raise abutment tie-ins, minor areas for the dam road, and some non-home areas north of I-225.
- c. None of the dam safety study alternatives will result in any changes to the current Cherry Creek Lake operation or normal pool of 5550 feet in elevation.
- d. The alternatives include options which would relieve adverse impacts to the Cherry Creek School District.
- e. All remaining alternatives contain provisions for maintaining the existing traffic flow both during construction and after project completion.

f. The alternatives are being developed to minimize adverse impacts related to the construction phase of the project.

g. The inclusion of an area as an alternative in a Corps study should not result in long-term changes in property value. Currently, homes are being built and sold in the Denver area which are just outside of the 100-year flood boundary. The homes around Cherry Creek Lake are many times less likely to get flooded than a home between the 100 and 500 year flood boundary. The development around Cherry Creek Dam does not appear to have been affected by the study.

This information is being provided prior to the completion of the draft dam safety report to relieve apparent public concerns. The information provided is a summary and as such, cannot address all the details regarding the items discussed. The draft Dam Safety Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are scheduled to be provided to the public for review and comment during the winter of 1999/2000. The details of the study findings and recommended preferred alternative will be available in the draft dam safety report. The EIS will address environmental issues.

Separate correspondence referencing other topics and other related information have been included with this mailing. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. William Miller, Project Manager, at (402) 221-4022.

Sincerely,


Kenneth S. Cooper
Deputy District Engineer